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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,941	09/22/2003	Andrew Walker	P-US-CS 1144	1634
7590 Bruce S. Shapiro Black & Decker Corporation Mail Stop TW199 701 E. Joppa Rd Towson, MD 21286			EXAMINER KYLE, MICHAEL J	
			ART UNIT 3677	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE			MAIL DATE	
3 MONTHS			01/24/2007	
			DELIVERY MODE PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/667,941

Applicant(s)

WALKER ET AL.

Examiner

Michael J. Kyle

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6,7 and 9-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1, and 9-14 are objected to because of the limitation "functioning as the housing". It is not clear what the function of the housing is. In this case, the housing functions to underlay the chamber, as required by the claims. Thus it is unclear how the clamping portion or gripping portion may function as the housing when it overlays the chamber or flexible member. Claims 10, 11, and 14 ultimately depend from claims 9 and 13, and include all of the limitations thereof. For this reason, these claims are also objected to.
2. Claim 15 is objected to because it is missing a period (.) at the end.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 6, 7, and 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wadge (U.S. Patent No. 6,206,107) in view of DeLuca (U.S. Patent No. 6,591,456).
5. With respect to claims 6 and 7, Wadge discloses a power tool having a housing (4) with a handle (10) and a motor to actuate an output member of the tool. The handle includes a gripping portion (area to be gripped by user). Wadge fails to disclose the chamber enclosing a gaseous vibration damping medium, as claimed.

6. DeLuca teaches a tool with a gripping portion where the gripping portion includes a chamber (106) enclosing a gaseous vibration damping medium (column 12, lines 20-21) extending outwardly from the gripping portion so that the gripping portion and the chamber may be simultaneously gripped. DeLuca uses the arrangement to provide a cushioning effect for the user (abstract). The gripping portion surrounds and secures the chamber in the gripping portion. The chamber is positioned to enable parts of the user's hand to contact the gripping portion and the chamber. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wadge as taught by DeLuca, such that Wadge includes the chamber arrangement of DeLuca, in order to provide a cushioning effect for the user. DeLuca's arrangement further includes a cover piece (230, 250, 256) made of a material that is relatively hard as compared to the gaseous vibration damping medium. Examiner notes that any material will be relatively hard compared to a gas. The cover piece includes an aperture (254) through which the chamber protrudes. Examiner notes that the limitations regarding portions of a user's hand contact different portions of the grip are intended use recitations. The cover piece forms at least part of the gripping portion at the location of the cover piece and a fastening mechanism (connecting 210, 230, 250 to element 252 in figure 10) securing the cover piece with the housing (252). The cover piece covers a portion of the gripping portion adjacent to the chamber (106) and functions as the gripping portion adjacent to the chamber. Examiner asserts that because the cover can be gripped, it functions as the gripping portion.

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7. With respect to claims 9-11, Wadge discloses a power drill (shown in figure 4) comprising a main body (4), a handle (10) having opposite side surfaces (6, 8) each defining gripping regions. Wadge fails to disclose the two chambers as claimed.

8. DeLuca teaches two chambers (106) enclosing a gaseous vibration damping medium, and positioned on opposite side surfaces of the handle with one chamber protruding outwardly from the gripping region of each opposite side surface. The gripping region (formed partially by 210, 230, 250) covers a portion of the chambers. The chambers are discrete from each other. DeLuca uses the arrangement to provide a cushioning effect for the user (abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wadge as taught by DeLuca, such that Wadge includes the chamber arrangement of DeLuca, in order to provide a cushioning effect for the user. DeLuca also teaches four chambers. The gripping portion includes a fastening mechanism (to secure 210, 230, 250 to 252 in figure 10) to retain the chamber on the housing (252). The gripping portion covers the housing (252) portion adjacent the chamber and the gripping portion functions as the housing adjacent to the chamber (column 8, lines 1-8).

9. With respect to claim 11, DeLuca discloses a single cover piece, but neither Wadge nor DeLuca show two cover pieces. However, replacing a single piece with multiple parts that act identical to the single piece is considered obvious and well known in the art. Such a change produces no new or unexpected result. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to replace the single cover piece of DeLuca with a two cover pieces.

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10. With respect to claims 12-14, Wadge discloses a power sander (column 5, line 1) comprising a housing with a main body (4) and upper gripping portion (on 10), a drive motor (22) in the main body, a sanding platen (sander attachment piece, not shown) extending downwardly from the main body and being driven by the drive motor. The handle (10) extends rearwardly from the main body. Wadge fails to disclose the chamber as claimed.

11. DeLuca teaches a tool with a gripping portion where the gripping portion includes a chamber (106) enclosing a gaseous vibration damping medium (column 12, lines 20-21) resting on a portion of a housing (252). The chamber protrudes from an upper surface of the gripping portion (formed partially by 230, 250, 256) so that the gripping portion retains the chamber on the housing and covers the housing portion adjacent the chamber. DeLuca uses the arrangement to provide a cushioning effect for the user (abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wadge as taught by DeLuca, such that Wadge includes the chamber arrangement of DeLuca, in order to provide a cushioning effect for the user. DeLuca also teaches four chambers. As a result of the combination, the chamber of DeLuca will protrude from an upper surface of the gripping portion of Wadge. DeLuca further shows two chambers enclosing the gaseous vibration damping medium. The gripping portion includes a fastening mechanism (to connect 210, 230, 250 to 252 in figure 10) to retain the chamber on the housing. The gripping portion covers the housing portion adjacent the chamber and the functions as the housing adjacent the chamber. Examiner notes column 8, lines 1-6 describe this, where it is stated that the frame member 250 can be used to mount cushioning device 200 onto an underlying article. The cushioning member may be mounted on the rigid

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body member 252 (housing). Thus, the cushioning portion is mounted on the housing, which is an underlying article, and within the frame member 250.

12. With respect to claim 15, Wadge discloses a power saw (column 5, line 1, "jigsaw") comprising a main body (4) with an opening (18) therethrough to defines a handle (10) rearwardly of the opening, the housing adapted to receive a saw blade at a forward end. A motor (22) is disposed in the main body. The handle includes a gripping portion. Wadge fails to disclose the chamber as claimed.

13. DeLuca teaches a tool with a gripping portion where the gripping portion includes a chamber (106) enclosing a gaseous vibration damping medium (column 12, lines 20-21) extending outwardly from the gripping portion so that the gripping portion and the chamber may be simultaneously gripped. The chamber is positioned on the gripping portion (formed partially by 230, 250, 256) so that parts of a user's hand may contact the gripping portion and other parts may contact the chamber). This is made possible based on the pressure applied to the chamber and the spacing between the chambers. DeLuca uses the arrangement to provide a cushioning effect for the user (abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wadge as taught by DeLuca, such that Wadge includes the chamber arrangement of DeLuca, in order to provide a cushioning effect for the user. The cover piece forms at least part of the gripping portion at the location of the cover piece and a fastening mechanism (connecting 210, 230, 250 to element 252 in figure 10) securing the cover piece with the housing (252). The cover piece covers a portion of the gripping portion adjacent to the

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chamber (106) and functions as the gripping portion adjacent to the chamber. Examiner asserts that because the cover can be gripped, it functions as the gripping portion.

Allowable Subject Matter

14. Claim 1 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objections set forth above.

15. Claims 2-5 are allowed because the prior art fails to show the combination of a power tool with a gripping portion including at least one flexible sheet and at least one support having an aperture, where the flexible sheet protrudes through the aperture and forms a chamber bound by the housing of the tool and a single thickness of the flexible sheet and where the single thickness of the sheet directly contacts the housing adjacent the chamber. In DeLuca, the chamber is bound by another flexible sheet, not a housing.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments filed October 17, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that neither Wadge nor DeLuca shows positioning of a member on top of a housing and securing it with the housing so that it functions as the housing adjacent the chamber. Examiner respectfully disagrees and cites to DeLuca column 8, lines 1-6, where it is described that the cushioning member may be mounted on an underlying surface (housing), and held in place by a frame 250 (cover member) that functions as the housing.

Conclusion

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17. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

18. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Kyle whose telephone number is 571-272-7057. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

20. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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21. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

mk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Mitchell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katherine Mitchell
Primary Examiner